



Small Projects Day – April 7, 2020, Section 2: Resource Specialist Review

Project Name: Weston CCC Trail

A proposed action may be categorically excluded from analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS only if there are no extraordinary circumstances related to that proposed action. Potential presence of extraordinary circumstances must be addressed by the appropriate resource specialists.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE	
	YES	NO	YES	NO			
Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat (ANIMALS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gretchen E. Nareff, Wildlife Biologist	4-1-20	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale:							
Forest Service sensitive Species (RFSS-Animals)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gretchen E. Nareff, Wildlife Biologist	4-1-20	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: There was a wood turtle observation in this stretch of the stream in 2006, but there will be no tree removal or bridge construction. No trees >4" DBH would be cut for this project.							
Describe Mitigations required:							
BE Complete	Y	N	USFWS Consultation Complete?		Y	N	N/A
Date Completed: 4-1-20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date Completed:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat (PLANTS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Forest Service sensitive Species (RFSS-Plants) – Potential habitat only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MB Deller/ Botanist	March 31, 2020	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Mitigations expected to be effective							
Describe Mitigations required: A botanist should walk this proposed trail, and if any RFSS are found, they should be avoided during trail establishment and maintenance. Completed during the summer of 2020.							
BE Complete?	Y	N					
Date Completed: March 31, 2020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

¹ FSH 1909.15 Section 30

² The mere presence of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. It is the degree of the potential effect of a proposed action on these resource conditions that determines whether extraordinary circumstance exist.





EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Flood plains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	4/3/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Nothing proposed in this project would affect the flood plain Describe Mitigations required:						
Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist	4/4/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Describe Mitigations required: Trail should end a minimum of 100 feet outside of the wetland and trail end designed to minimize user-created extensions to the trail.						
Army Corps of Engineer permit needed?	Y	N	Not if trail plan is revised to end outside of wetland buffer.			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Municipal watersheds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	4/3/3030
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Describe Mitigations required:						
Designated Wilderness Areas Wilderness Name: Peru Peak	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Holly Knox, Recreation Program Manager	3/18/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Project area located over 4.0 miles from the nearest Wilderness: Peru Peak Describe Mitigations required:						
Designated National Recreation Areas NRA Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emily Lauderdale, District Recreation Program Manager	3/18/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						





EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Rationale: project is located outside any NRAs						
Describe Mitigations required:						
National Scenic Trails Trail Name(s) <u>Appalachian Trail</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emily Lauderdale, District Recreation Program Manager	3/18/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale: project is located outside AT corridor						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Eligible Wild, Scenic, Recreational Rivers Type (s) <u>scenic-eligible</u> River Name(s) <u>West River</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emily Lauderdale, District Recreation Program Manager	3/18/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale: Proposed actions will not have any effect on the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the river nor affect its future eligibility						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Roadless Area Conservation Rule Areas (RACR)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shawn Langston, NEPA Planner	3/16/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale: The project area is not located within a RACR area.						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Research Natural Areas (RNAs) RNA Name(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist	4/4/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale: Not present						





EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Describe Mitigations required: None						
American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Triplett/ Tribal Liaison	March 24, 2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Triplett/ Forest Archeologist	March 24, 2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						

OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A. Quintana, Soil Scientist	4/6/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Trail designation will minimally increase risks of compaction, erosion, and sedimentation through poorly drained soils. However, forest plan standards and guidelines will reduce risks to acceptable levels.						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	4/5/2020





OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one	<input type="checkbox"/> no effect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect			
Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Visuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emily Lauderdale, District Recreation Program Manager	3/18/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect	<input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect			
Rationale: proposed actions would not affect scenery.						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emily Lauderdale, District Recreation Program Manager	3/18/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one	<input type="checkbox"/> no effect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect			
Rationale: Adding section of road as a trail would not adversely affect recreation.						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Fisheries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	4/3/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect	<input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect			
Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nareff/Biologist	4-1-20
Level of anticipated effect - Check one	<input type="checkbox"/> no effect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect			
Rationale: Trail establishment and maintenance may disrupt some wildlife, but no adverse effects are anticipated.						
Describe Mitigations required:						





OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Ecological (Special Areas; Significant Ecological Features; Ecosystem Composition, Structure & Function)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist	4/4/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Non-native Invasive Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MB Deller/ Botanist	March 31, 2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Mitigations expected to be effective						
Describe Mitigations required: A botanist should walk this proposed trail, and if any NNIP are found, feasibility of control should be discussed, and if possible, implemented, following methods approved through the Invasive Plant Control EA. If not likely to be successfully treated, they should be avoided during trail establishment and maintenance. Completed during the summer of 2020. If any wheeled or tracked equipment is brought into to establish the trail, it must be cleaned prior to accessing the site. If any NNIP are present at the site, equipment used to establish or maintain the trail must be cleaned again on site, prior to leaving, The group establishing and maintaining the trail is asked to view one of the videos at the following website, so they understand the nature of what is being asked of them, and why, and they are asked to heed its advice: http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/prevention/playing smart.shtml . A “Play, Clean, Go” video may also be viewed: https://vimeo.com/174395330 .						
Range (FLNF)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matt Lark, Natural Resource Specialist	04/07/20
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						





OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (as applicable)	INVOLVEMENT REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO		
Timber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Braun/Silviculturist	3/17/20
Remarks: West River timber sale is planned to use this access road, coordination will be required with trail use. Much of the road would be cleared and maintained as part of the timber sale, so may want to delay any large trail fixes until after the sale to see if they would still be necessary. Coordination with the timber staff was completed during the summer of 2020. Correspondence on file in the project record.				
Fire/Fuels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LR Silvia, Fuels Specialist	04/07/20
Remarks:				
Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Austin/FE	3/27/2020
Remarks: All improvements to FR299 will be approved by engineering. All engineered trail structures not currently recognized as a FS trail standard will be reviewed and approved by engineering prior to implementation. The pull off along VT155 is within the State of VT right-of-way. The proposal is a change in use of this location and may require a state access permit. Recreation will need to communicate with VTrans and acquire any required documentation. Coordination with the engineering staff and VTrans was completed during the summer of 2020. No permits are needed from VTrans. Correspondence on file in the project record.				
Accessibility/Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donna Marks Safety&OccupHealth	3/31/2020
Remarks: The FSTAG Trail Accessibility Guidelines should be followed. Proponent should work with Forest Service recreation staff for access to guidelines and assistance in interpretation.				
Survey/Landline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Austin/Staff Officer	3/27/2020
Remarks:				

Responsible Official: Chris Mattrick (Acting District Ranger)

Documentation Level and CE Category (DM, LTF): DM, E1





Who to include for scoping: Town of Weston, VTrans, Weston Historic Society, Weston Conservation Commission, Mountain Valley Trails Association (MVTA)

Forest Plan consistency: Yes

Field visit (who & when): Botany, completed summer 2020.

Desired decision date: September 2020

Desired implementation date: October 2020

